

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were examined. The Title; Abstract, and Claims 3, 5-7, 9-10, 12, 17, and 21 are objected to. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 11, 13-16, 18-20 and 22-24 are rejected. Claims 25-33 have previously been withdrawn.

Applicants amend the title and abstract. Applicants amend claims 8, 17, 20 and 21. Applicants cancel claims 25-33 and submit additional claims 34-36. Applicants assert that no new matter is added herein as is further described below with respect to the amendments and additional claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-24, as amended, and consideration of additional claims 34-36 in view of at least the following remarks.

I. Title

The Patent Office requires a new title as the title of the invention is not indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Applicants amend the title and submit that the amended title is indicative of the pending claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the requirement above.

II. Abstract

The Patent Office object to the Abstract because of the legal phraseology "the invention." Applicants amend the Abstract to remove the terms "of the invention," and assert that the Abstract, as amended, is proper. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the objection above.

III. Claim Objections

The Patent Office objects to claims 3, 5-7, 9-10, 12, 17 and 21 because of informalities.

According to the Patent Office, in claims 3, 5 and 6-7, it is unclear what "stimuli transfer zones" are. Applicants assert that upon reading Applicants' specification, a practitioner would find claims 3, 5, and 6-7 clear, including the terms "stimuli transfer zones." Examples of such zones, without providing limitation to

interpretation of such zones, are provided are paragraph 16 and by features 112 through 114 of Figure 2 of Applicants' specification as filed. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above.

According to the Patent Office, in claim 6, it is unclear how the transfer zones are coupled to the contact by a coupling without causing a force actuation, compression, or compliance of the contacts. Applicants assert that upon reading Applicants' specification, a practitioner in the art would find such coupling clear. Applicants point to examples, without limiting such couplings, provided at paragraph 17 of the Application as originally filed. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the objection above.

According to the Patent Office, in claims 9-10, it is unclear what "a vacuum force attachment" is. Applicants assert that upon reading the specification, a practitioner in the art would find claims 9-10 clear, including what a vacuum force attachment is. Specifically, examples of such attachment, without limitation thereto, can be found at paragraph 9 of the Application as originally filed. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above.

According to the Patent Office, in claim 12, it is unclear whether the plurality of contacts of the second side are the same as "electrical conduits" in the test device portion. Applicants assert that a practitioner of the art, upon reading Applicants' specification, would find claim 12 clear, including the "electrical conduits." Moreover, Applicants note an example of such conduits and contacts, without providing limitation thereto, can be found at paragraph 17 and Figure 2 of the Application as originally filed. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the objection above.

According to the Patent Office, in claim 17, it is unclear what is meant by "to receive at least one of the plurality of energy stimuli from a first location of the second side." Applicants amend claim 17 to specify that the energy stimuli is

received "at" the first location. Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above.

According to the Patent Office, in claim 17, it is unclear what "electronic topology" represents. Applicants amend claim 21 to change "electronic topology" to "energy conduit." Hence, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the objection above.

Applicants assert that all of the amendments to the claims are with respect to form only except for the amendments adding "a thickness less than or equal to a depth of the cavity," to claims 8 and 20. Specifically, Applicants assert that upon reading the specification practitioner in the art would have found all of the claims, as filed, proper and clear.

IV. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejects claims 1-5, 7-8, 11, 13-16, 18-20 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,436,570 to Tan (Tan). It is axiomatic that to be anticipated, every limitation of a claim must be disclosed in a single reference.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection above and submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference for at least the reason that the cited reference does not teach or suggest a first side including a generally planar surface adapted to be attached to via a vacuum force attachments, as required by claim 1.

Tan describes a test probe having a test body and test head comprising printed circuit board having a plurality of stainless steel pins embedded therein to contact socket pins of an IC socket (see Abstract; and col. 2, lines 48 through col. 3, lines 20). Specifically, Tan teaches testing end 5 of probe body 20 comprising a plurality of slots 23 for accommodating cable connection header 10 (see col. 3, lines 40-52). According to Tan, first, a test probe is coupled electrically to test equipment; second, an IC

device is removed from an IC socket; and then, the test probe takes the place of the IC device in the socket (see col. 1, lines 15-26).

Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion of a planar surface adapted to be attached to via a vacuum force attachment, as required by claim 1. Hence, for at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above.

Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-7, being dependent upon allowable base claim 1, are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons cited above. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 2-7.

In addition, Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection above and assert that independent claim 8, as amended, is patentable over the cited references for at least the reason that the cited references does not teach or suggest an apparatus comprising a thickness less than or equal to a depth of the cavity, as required by amended claim 8. Applicants assert that amendments to claims 8 and 20 are supported at paragraph 14 and Figures 1-2 of the specification as originally filed.

Tan teaches a test probe having test body 20 and test head 22 comprising a printed circuit board having stainless steel pins 50 parallel to each other along the longitudinal axis of the contact pins from the IC socket (see col. 2, lines 60 through col. 3, line 12; and Figures 1-2). Specifically, Tan teaches that the thickness of head 22, and longitudinal length of steel pins 15 is greater than the depth of IC socket 21 (see col. 3, line 63 through col. 4, line 12; and Figure 4).

Consequently, the Patent Office has not identified and Applicants are unable to find any teaching or suggestion that accounts for an apparatus comprising a thickness less than or equal a depth of the cavity, as required by amended claim 8. Thus, for at least the reason above, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above of claim 8.

Dependent claims 9-19 being dependent upon allowable amended base claim 8 are patentable over the cited reference for at least the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection of dependent claims 9-19.

Next, Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection above and assert that independent claim 20, as amended, is patentable over the cited reference for at least the reason that the cited reference does not teach or suggest an apparatus having a thickness less than or equal to a depth of the cavity, as required by amended claim 20.

An argument analogous to the one above for claim 8 applies here as well. Hence, for at least the reason that the cited references does not teach or suggest the above noted limitation of amended claim 20, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection above.

Dependent claims 21-24 being dependent upon allowable amended base claim 20 are patentable over the cited reference for at least the reasons stated above. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office withdraw the rejection of claims 21-24.

V. Additional Claims 34-36

Applicants note that additional claims 34-36 are supported at paragraph 9 and Figure 1 of the specification as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

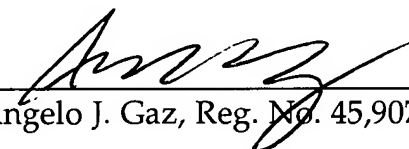
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17. If a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/19/05

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 19, 2005.


Lillian E. Rodriguez

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